

## REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 8, 2010. Claims 1, 3-11, 14, and 15 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 10, and 11 are in independent form. Claim 13 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and new Claim 15 has been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, and 14 have been amended to define aspects of Applicant's invention more clearly. Support for the claim amendments may be found, for example, in FIG. 6, and in the description thereof in the specification.<sup>1</sup> Favorable consideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 1, 3, 6-11, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0003060 (*Asoh et al.*) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0029531 (Ohta), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0003933 (*Deshpande et al.*); and that Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Asoh et al.* in view of *Ohta* and *Deshpande et al.*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,465 (*Suda et al.*). Cancellation of Claim 13 renders its rejection moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and submits that independent Claims 1, 10, and 11, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is directed to a connection control method for an information processing apparatus. The method includes receiving identification information identifying a plurality of wireless networks. A first wireless network of the plurality of wireless networks identified by the received identification information is

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<sup>1</sup> Any examples presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes and are not to be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

automatically joined. Other information processing apparatuses that have a function of performing a predetermined processing are searched for, in the joined first wireless network. If another information processing apparatus having the function of performing the predetermined processing is found based on the searching, the other information processing apparatus is requested to perform the predetermined processing.

Notably, if no information processing apparatus having the function of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network joined previously is found in the search step, a second wireless network of the plurality of networks identified by the identification information received in the reception step is automatically joined, and other information processing apparatuses that have the function of performing the predetermined processing are searched for, in the joined second wireless network. If another information processing apparatus having the function of performing the predetermined print processing in the second wireless network is found based on the searching, the other information processing apparatus having the function of performing the predetermined print processing in the second wireless network is requested to perform the predetermined processing.

By virtue of the notable features mentioned above, a simple user operation, for example, can cause the information processing apparatus to automatically join a wireless network that includes a device having the function of performing the predetermined processing, and to request the predetermined processing from the device.

*Asoh et al.* is understood to relate to a computer that can be connected to a plurality of networks (*see* paragraph 2). *Asoh et al.* discusses that, to use a predetermined network connection, an object may be selected from a set of objects, wherein each object includes physical and logical network configuration information (*see* paragraph 12). Applicant

agrees with the conclusion in the Office Action that *Asoh et al.* fails to disclose changing a wireless network, which was previously joined, to another wireless network identified by received identification information, if no apparatus having a function of performing a particular processing in the wireless network previously joined is detected, searching the other wireless network for the an apparatus having the function of performing the processing, and requesting the possessing from the apparatus, if it is found in the other wireless network (*see* Office Action, page 5).

*Ohta* is understood to relate to a system for printing information at a conveniently located printer station that can be selected in a predetermined area (*see* paragraph 1). *Ohta* discusses that a plurality of printer stations can be provided in the predetermined area and can be networked to a print server that stores information, that a first wireless signal can be sent from a portable device directly to the printer stations, that a positional relation between the portable device and each of the printer stations can be determined based upon the first wireless signal, that at least one of the printer stations can be selected based upon the positional relation, that information can be received at a selected printer station, and that the information can be printed at the selected printer station (*see* paragraph 7). Applicant agrees with the conclusion in the Office Action that *Asoh et al.*, as modified by *Ohta*, fails to disclose changing a wireless network, which was previously joined, to another wireless network identified by received identification information, if no apparatus having a function of performing a particular processing in the wireless network previously joined is detected, searching the other wireless network for the an apparatus having the function of performing the processing, and requesting the possessing from the apparatus, if it is found in the other wireless network (*see* Office Action, page 5).

*Deshpande et al.* is understood to relate to techniques and structures for providing wireless network access and services within a communication system (*see* paragraph 1).

*Deshpande et al.* discusses that a communication device can be located within an area that is serviced by multiple wireless network access service providers (*see* paragraph 8). *Deshpande et al.* also discusses that the communication device can establish a temporary network connection with each of the service providers, and can measure a bandwidth of each temporary network connection (*see* paragraph 15). After the communication device has analyzed information received from the service providers, one of the service providers is selected based on user-specific connection preferences, for example, a least expensive service provider that can provide a per user bandwidth greater than “X” (*see* paragraph 16).

As best understood by Applicant, the communication device in *Deshpande et al.* connects to each of the service providers before one of the service providers is selected. That is, to determine which of the service providers is the least expensive, the communication device must collect information from all of the service providers; the communication device is not understood to simply connect to a first service provider identified by a list, for example. Nothing has been found in *Deshpande et al.* that is believed to teach or suggest that, after the communication device automatically joins a first network and searches for an apparatus that has a function of performing a predetermined processing, if the apparatus is not found in the first wireless network, the computer automatically joins a second wireless network and searches for an apparatus that has the function of performing the predetermined processing.

In summary, Applicant submits that a combination of *Asoh et al.*, *Ohta*, and *Deshpande et al.*, assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest a method that includes, among other things, “a changing step of automatically joining a

second wireless network of the plurality of networks identified by the identification information received in the reception step, if no information processing apparatus having the function of performing the predetermined processing in the first wireless network joined previously is found based on the searching in the search step, searching for other information processing apparatuses that have the function of performing the predetermined processing in the second wireless network, and of requesting, if another information processing apparatus having the function of performing the predetermined print processing in the second wireless network is found based on the searching, the other information processing apparatus having the function of performing the predetermined print processing in the second wireless network to perform the predetermined processing,” as recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over *Asoh et al.*, *Ohta*, and *Deshpande et al.*, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 10 and 11 include features sufficiently similar to those of Claim 1 that these claims are believed to be patentable over *Asoh et al.*, *Ohta*, and *Deshpande et al.*, for the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in the present application depend from Claim 1 and are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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